Amendments

In the Drawings:

Please substitute the attached Figure 1 for the pending Figure 1. The attached

Figure 1 is a duplicate of the drawing that is being submitted herewith as part of the

Formal Drawings for Figures 1-4. The Formal Drawings are being submitted herewith

under a separate pleading for approval.

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request approval of the proposed drawing changes

provided herewith and illustrated in more detail in red ink on the attached Markup Copy

of Figure 1. The changes to the drawing are made to rectify three obvious errors as

illustrated in red ink. The first two errors pertain to the directional arrows shown therein.

Referring to the pending Figure 1, Applicants assert that (1) the arrow connecting

element "Upper Layer 126" to element "Backbone Network", and (2) the arrow

connecting element "Backbone Network" to element "Output Queues 128" both are

positioned incorrectly to depict the functional relationship among the elements. In the

pending Figure 1, these arrows are reversed in the incorrect direction. Applicants further

assert that no other direction for these arrows could have been intended. Therefore in the

attached Figure 1, Applicants have illustrated the above-mentioned arrows in the correct

direction. The Applicants' assertions are clearly supported by the specification in

paragraph 21 which describes the interrelationship of the aforementioned elements.

In addition, Applicants assert that a box outlining the element "Downstream

Scheduler / MPEG Transport" is missing erroneously although the text "Downstream

Scheduler / MPEG Transport" is present to label the missing box. Applicants note that

several correctly boxed elements (such as, "128," "132," "108," and "136") have arrows

pointing towards the element "Downstream Scheduler / MPEG Transport" to indicate the

flow of signals thereto, and the element "Downstream Scheduler / MPEG Transport"

also has an arrow pointing towards the element "Downstream Channel" to indicate the

flow of signals thereto. Referring to the attached Figure 1, Applicants have illustrated a

box to outline the element "Downstream Scheduler / MPEG Transport." The Applicants'

assertions are clearly supported by paragraphs 30, 31, 32, 34, and 35 within the

specification.

These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is

respectfully requested. Based on the above amendment, Applicants respectfully request

the Examiner to consider and examine the present invention in light of the relevant art.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will

expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the

undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully

requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Kendrick P. Patterson
Attorney for Applicants
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Date: 7/24/2001

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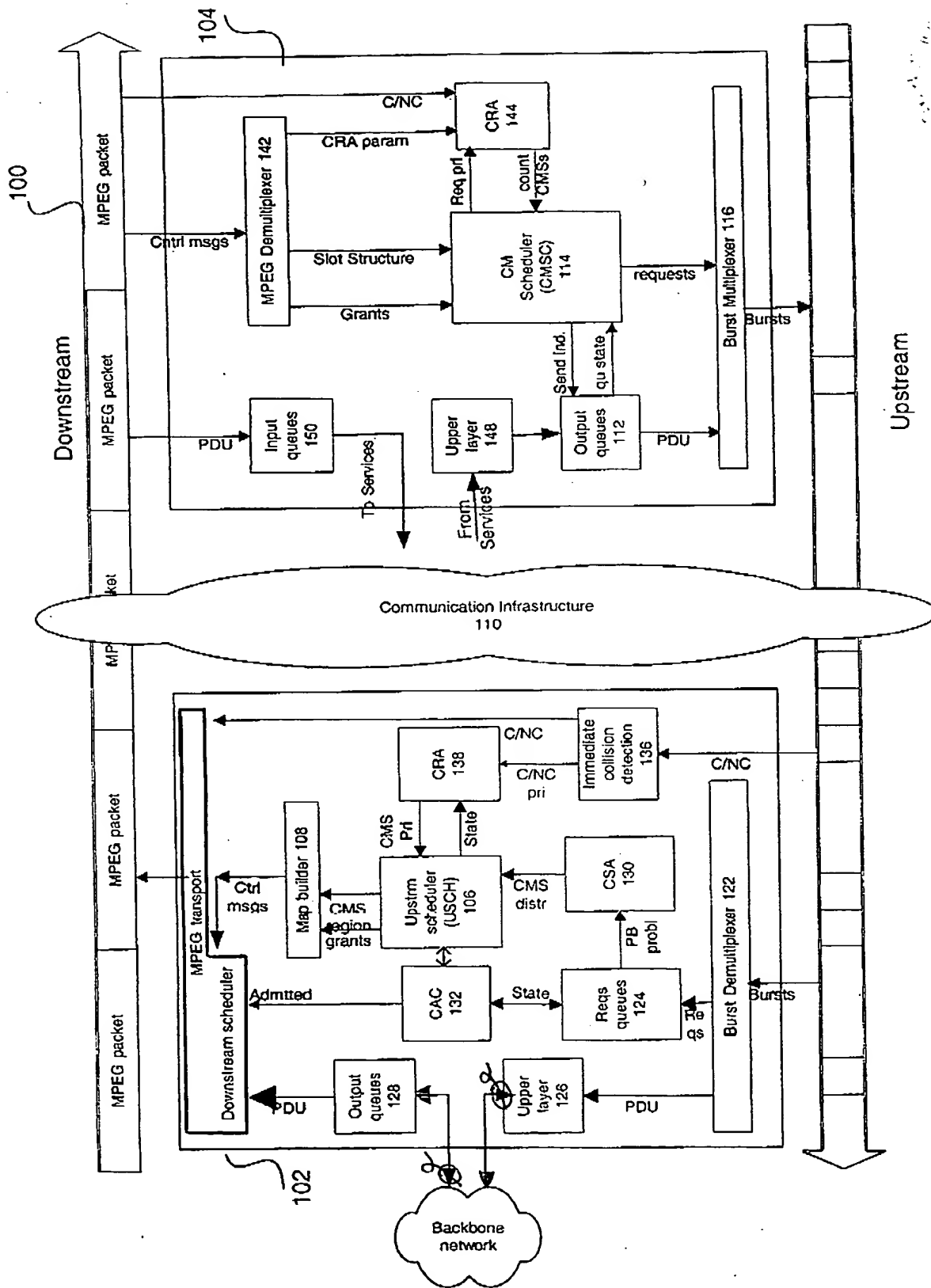Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

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SKGF Rev. 2/13/01

Downstream

100

104

MPEG packet

MPEG packet

MPEG packet

MPEG Demultiplexer 142

C/NC

CRA param

CRA 144

Req pri

count CMSs

Ctrl msgs

Slot Structure

CM Scheduler (CMSC) 114

Grants

requests

Burst Multiplexer 116

Bursts

Send Ind.

qu state

PDU

Input queues 150

To Services

Upper layer 148

Output queues 112

PDU

From Services

Communication Infrastructure 110

MPEG packet

MPEG packet

MPEG packet

Upstream

MPEG packet

C/NC

CRA 138

C/NC

Immediate collision detection 136

C/NC

C/NC pri

CMS Pri

State

Map builder 108

Ctrl msgs

MPEG transport

Upstrm scheduler (USCH) 106

CMS distr

CSA 130

CMS region grants

PB probl

Burst Demultiplexer 122

Downstream scheduler

Admtted

CAC 132

State

Reqs queues 124

Re qs

Bursts

PDU

Output queues 128

PDU

Upper layer 126

PDU

102

Backbone network

Fig. 1